

# The Trinity Tripod

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Trinity College

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## President Berger-Sweeney joins Hartford Hospital Board

NICO NAGLE '17  
STAFF WRITER

Trinity's newest head Bantam, Joanne Berger-Sweeney, has had a rather impressive string of accomplishments on the road to Hartford, CT. An author of more than 60 publications, the holder of grants from the esteemed National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, and a fellowship at the American Association for the Advancement of Science riddle her résumé. This is to say nothing of her chairing the professional development committee of the society for Neuroscience, the field in which she received her doctorate from Johns Hopkins University.

President Berger-Sweeney recently continued her life-long run of professional accomplishment with an appointment to Hartford Hospital's board of directors. She now shares her position with the likes of prom-



President Berger-Sweeney has been appointed to the board of directors of Hartford Hospital. Inert members of the financial industry, such as Douglas Elliot, the president of The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc., as well as the president and COO of Stanley Black & Decker, James Loree. Other prominent figures, such as ESPN sports analyst, Rebecca Lobo, and Magdalena Rodriguez, the head of Community Renewal Team Inc., will find themselves working in tandem with Trinity's 22nd President.

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This is a major step for President Berger-Sweeney, the first female President of Trinity College, as it establishes her presence in the Hartford community, outside of the campus jurisdiction, and even out-

side its medical community to some degree. She joins a staff that oversees the direction of the number one hospital in the region, as ranked by the U.S. News and World Report. In 2012, the hospital successfully catered to nearly 100,000 visits, including a staggering 36,000 surgeries, as well as delivering 3,700 newborns to the families of the region.

Like the President herself, Hartford Hospital has maintained its place on the cutting edge. Despite being established in 1854, the facility performed the first successful heart transplant in the state, realizing the vision of using robotics in surgery. They have also extended their reach with Connecticut's first air ambulance system, LIFE STAR. The fine work of Hartford Hospital's medical professionals have garnered awards of merit in nearly all of the 18 departments, particular-

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## The 87th annual Academy Awards celebrates cinematic achievements

TRIP SLAYMAKER '18  
STAFF WRITER

The Academy Awards are often cited as the biggest night in Hollywood—the people who win the Oscar are remembered forever in film history. Last Sunday saw the 87th annual awards ceremony, and while most recipients could be predicted months in advance, there

were a few who surprised, a few who disappointed, and a few who exceeded everyone's expectations.

The show opened with a predictable, charming song and dance routine from Host Neil Patrick Harris, and segued into the award for best supporting actor; J.K. Simmons was the predicted winner for his seething performance in "Whip-

lash," and he took the Oscar with a short speech about the importance of family and friends. Costume design went to "The Grand Budapest Hotel," and so did makeup and hairstyling, which came as a surprise to those who expected to see the statuette go to "Foxcatcher,"

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Academy Awards host, Neil Patrick Harris, presents actress Anna Kendrick with a golden shoe.

## Men's Squash wins National Championship

SAMANTHA BEATI '17  
STAFF WRITER

On Sunday afternoon, The George A. Kellner '64 Squash Center was filled to the brim with enthusiastic fans who could not contain their excitement about the day's championship game between Trinity College and St. Lawrence University. Not only was Trinity Men's Squash playing in the National Championships, but they were playing at home in Hartford. As the players moved on the court, the crowd started to chant "I believe that we will win," a mantra that they hoped would become a reality at the end of the days final. Trinity coach Paul Assiarte spoke to the crowd before the start of the finals and said that "history is being made today," a statement that echoed what all players and fans were feeling. It was a day of firsts, not only was it the first time in history that the Bantams hosted the National Championships but it was also the first time in history that two teams playing in the

championship were not Ivy League schools. The momentum of the energetic crowd was too much for St. Lawrence to handle, allowing Trinity to walk away with their 15th National Championship in 17 seasons. They finished the day's matches 7-2 and finished the regular season with a record of 20-1.

Trinity had an impressive performance from players Rick Penders '18 and Omar Allaudin '18, who gave Trinity a quick 2-0 lead. The next match was James Evans '18 who was down 2-1, but was able to come back and eventually win with great athleticism. Evans finished the season 21-0, an amazing finish that lead to Coach Paul Assiarte proclaiming him the "MVP of the team" saying that "he understands himself as a person and also plays great squash, something that is hard to do when players are really good." After a 3-0 lead, the next match was played by Karan Malik '15 against St. Lawrence player An-

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# The Trinity Tripod

Established in 1904

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## Trinity College

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## Tripod Editorial

# N.S.A document reveals threat of cyberwar between U.S. and Iran

Technological advancements and society's trend towards a continued reliance on the internet and cyberspace has recently been accompanied by a growing concern about using this medium for a new breed of modern warfare. The wars that were once waged on land with weapons and physical defenses have now been transformed into virtual encounters. And cyberspace is the new terrain where various political leaders and countries have chosen to fight. Ever since the dawn of cyberspace different leaders have attempted to manipulate this network in order to place attacks on opposing groups.

The most publicized incident of cyber warfare occurred recently with the North Korean attack on Sony pictures. This incident sparked a series of controversies and eventually led President Obama to accuse North Korea of ordering a destructive attack against America. This was the first time that the United States has ever explicitly charged another government with mounting a cyberattack on American targets. However, this conflict with North Korea would not be the last of its kind.

A recently disclosed

National Security Agency document revealed that Iranian officials have discovered new evidence that the United States was preparing cyberattacks on their networks. It then went on to explain that Iranian retaliation in response has escalated and marked the beginning of an era of computer competition between the United States and Iran.

The document also revealed that the three waves of attacks against the United States by Iran began in August 2012. The attacks targeted the websites of large banks, which included the likes of Bank of America and JPMorgan Chase. These attacks consisted of a flooding of the bank's website with data in an effort to overload them and subsequently make it impossible for customers to access their accounts. This is just the beginning of America's fear of the extent of cyber warfare, as officials have become increasingly alarmed by the successes of Iran's new "cybercorps."

Admiral Michael Rogers, the N.S.A's new director, has taken a firm stance on the issue and declared that his first task in his new position will be to deter these cyber attacks. He hopes to deter countries like Chi-

na, Iran, and Russia from waging cyberwar by making it relatively expensive to do so. Plans for how exactly he will attempt to do this have yet to be disclosed. The Obama administration has also recently grown hesitant over releasing the names of countries that they believe to be responsible for such attacks in the hopes of deterring them.

While the threat of cyberwarfare is frightening, especially due to the unknown potential damage that could result, it has a history in the United States starting in the 2000s. Most notably in June 2007, the U.S. Secretary of Defense's unclassified email account was hacked by unknown foreign intruders as part of a larger series of attacks to access and exploit the Pentagon's networks.

The uncharted waters of engaging in cyberwarfare are certainly intimidating. However, the United States has a unique capacity for dealing with unknown situations. This capacity for resilience and resourcefulness is distinctly American and will help government officials face what unknown challenges lie ahead.

-CCSN

# You don't need to be black to celebrate Black History Month

I have to guiltily make a confession regarding my ignorance on the subject of Black History Month. Although I have not grown up in America, I cannot (especially as a senior) use my foreignness as an excuse for this.

For the past three years here at Trinity, I have been invited to or heard of events on campus in celebration of this month, but neither did I ever attend any of these, nor did I even make the effort to look up the significance of this celebration. My logic for this seemed fairly straight forward: "I am not black, so what could I possibly have to celebrate on this month?" This stemmed from my baseless assumption that the occasion was simply to do with the abolishment of slavery, the extension of civil rights, and other legal accomplishments

that I couldn't culturally connect to. Ultimately, just the way I tend to be skeptical of the 'Hallmark holidays,' I would also end up questioning the purpose of delegating a month towards celebrating a specific history.

Following an insightful conversation with one of my roommates just this past weekend, as we approach the end of Black History Month, I have come to finally realize that the existence of this month is especially crucial for people like me. Black History Month did emerge as a way to address and clarify the often misunderstood and tangled up history of the African diaspora, about 50 years after slavery was abolished in America. That said, the month in contemporary times is also meant to celebrate the numerous contributions that African-Ameri-

cans have made to and continue to make to society at large. These are contributions that have positively impacted us all, but undoubtedly also include ones that we overlook in our daily lives. In this regard, this month can, and should be celebrated by people from all backgrounds.

In thinking about African-American contributions to society, the first two fields that come to mind include sports, and music. While African Americans have achieved numerous athletic milestones within or while representing America, the community has also been instrumental in the development of music genres ranging from the blues to jazz to reggae, and to hip-hop. Celebrities such as Beyoncé, Whitney Houston, Oprah Winfrey, Michael Jackson, Will Smith, Tiger Woods,

Michael Jordan, and Muhammad Ali, amongst many others have all made a lasting impression in the nations as well as in the world.

Black innovators and inventors have also made significant contributions over the years. To list a few: Dr. Daniel Hale Williams was the first physician to successfully perform an open heart surgery, Dr. Earl Shaw was the co-inventor of a laser device for radiation therapy for cancer patients, Garrett Morgan invented the first traffic signal, Sarah Broome invented the ironing board, J.A. Burr invented the lawn mower, and the list goes on.

While it does seem like a stretch to connect race to achievements that do not explicitly have much to do with ethnic backgrounds, I think it is essential to acknowledge and

celebrate these in the context of Black History Month.

Given the unfortunate stigmas and stereotypes that media has created, specifically linking African Americans to violent behavior, this month provides the opportunity for everyone to realize and celebrate the positive and truthfully inspiring side to the African diaspora. Instead of feeding into existing racial disparities by questioning the purpose of this month, why not simply partake in it? I think that any such occasion should be seen as an opportunity for people from diverse backgrounds to come together, instead of furthering apart.

Ultimately, Black History Month is not an exclusive celebration, and shouldn't be regarded as such.

-PS



## An open response from the Inter-Greek Council

WILL MORROW '16

SONJAY SINGH '15

EVAN ABRAHAM '15

INTER-GREEK COUNCIL

Last week, an article was published by a member of the Trinity student body entitled "An Open Letter to Trinity's Fraternity Brothers." In this letter, the author detailed various complaints about the way that Greek parties are operated, specifically regarding the behavior of the members at the door. Although these complaints are not completely without merit, we, as representatives of the Inter-Greek Council, felt that the letter merited a response, if only to establish an open dialogue between two large groups of students that are all too often estranged.

The main complaint of the previous letter centered around the way that members behave when working the door. The author of the letter felt that the doorman's mantra, "Do you know a brother?" was a ridiculous and somewhat demeaning method of de-

termining who to let in to a party. While this question may seem on the surface to be an arbitrary basis for turning people away, in reality it serves a very specific purpose.

A crucial understanding that most Trinity students seem to lack is that our parties take place on properties that are either privately owned or contracted from the school by the individual organizations. This means that although not all Greek houses themselves are occupied by residents, when students go out to the fraternities and sororities on a Friday or Saturday night, they are waiting to get into the equivalent of a private home. This misunderstanding is the root of the problem, because the times that members get the most frustrated at the door are when students try to get into parties after already being turned away. Then, the problem is further exacerbated because those students continue to congregate at the door after being asked to leave, creating even more difficulty for

the members trying to regulate the house. If someone were to host a party in their Jarvis suite, they would not expect to have a line of intoxicated strangers running out into their hallway, demanding entry to the event. In that context, it seems far less ridiculous that a guest at a party would be expected to know at least one person who helped to organize it.

In addition, the Greek houses on campus are the only social organizations that receive no financial support from the school. We supply the cups, decorations and foamy, unpalatable kegs that are offered free of charge at our parties, and also pay for the maintenance of our houses. It is not uncommon for fraternity houses to be damaged during parties, with the cost of repair resting squarely on the members of the house. Simultaneously, and somewhat perplexingly, we assume all liability for whatever takes place on our property. If any guest at one of our parties is injured, we become the target

of sanctions on the part of the college, and are open to lawsuits and even action by the Hartford Police Department. This combination of factors makes the "Do you know a brother" approach all the more valuable, because we, very reasonably, would rather share our resources with our friends than with unfamiliar students who are far more likely to damage our property, steal our possessions, or get us into legal trouble.

But it's not merely the liability that forces us to be selective at our doors. A combination of Trinity College Regulations, Hartford Fire Codes and simply the practical matter that our houses do not have unlimited space forces us to be discerning in who we admit. The truth is that every single night, more students flood onto Vernon Street than the Greek system has the capacity to accommodate. Asking an intoxicated student if he or she knows a brother is a far simpler and more effective method of crowd control than trying to explain the many complex-

ities of the Hartford Fire Code and Trinity College policy as they pertain to who we let into our parties. We have been told by numerous college officials that if we let in every person who comes to our door, it will be the last party we ever throw.

We agree: even as we do not support any sort of exclusionary practices, the gateways of our houses can often be a chaotic and frustrating place, both for our members and our guests. However, the problem begins with there being too few social outlets hosting the type of events that are clearly being demanded by the student body. Perhaps this issue is one that could be addressed through more late-night SGA programming or an exploration of expanding the Greek system. But it remains true that if we want a solution to the issues put forward in last week's article, it has to begin with removing the immense pressure that is placed on existing Greek organizations to satisfy the entire student body's social needs every weekend.

## Terrorist attack menaces normally peaceful Copenhagen

CAROLINE FEENEY '17

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Omar Abdel Hamid El-Hussein, 22, was killed in a firefight with police early on Sunday, Feb. 9 after a shooting spree that authorities say may have been inspired by last month's attacks in Paris. Despite speculations, it is still unknown if the shooting was also inspired by Islamic extremism and the Islamic State.

In the first attack, El-Hussein killed Danish filmmaker Finn Noergaard outside of a café. Noergaard was hosting a free speech rally. He was killed with a single shot from a M95 assault rifle that was then used to spray the entrance of the café, wounding three police officers inside.

El-Hussein appeared outside a synagogue in Copenhagen nine hours after fleeing the first scene. At the synagogogue, he fired nine rounds using two handguns, killing Jewish security guard Dan Uzan and wounding two more police officers.

El-Hussein was later shot by a SWAT team.

This attack is considered the worst terrorist attack in Denmark since the 1980s. It was not, however, entirely out of the blue. El-Hussein attended a vocational high school in Hvidovre, a town just outside of Copenhagen. Teachers described him as a strong student. During his time at the school, the teachers said that there was nothing to suggest a high level of involvement with radical Islam. Though El-Hussein was described as a good student, he was also described as having a bad temper. He was involved with a gang called "Blood and Brothers." Aydin Soei, a sociologist in Denmark, described this gang not as extremists, but as young adults who maintain the thought that "we are outsiders because of who we are and how we look." After 18 months at his school in Hvidovre, El-Hussein was sent to prison for stabbing a commuter on a train. It was not until his time in prison that El-Hussein began

to speak of radical Islam and aiding the Islamic state in Syria after being influenced by his fellow inmates.

Often times when we hear of a shooting, the first idea that comes to our head is 'Islamist extremists.' We think of young brainwashed men fighting for religion, but that is not what happened in Copenhagen last Sunday. According to Mr. Soei, "Mr. Hussein, 22, was an exemplar of a phenomenon of Europe's urban neighborhoods, not a product of the teachings of the Quran or their distortions by militant preachers. This wasn't an intellectual Islamist with a long beard." Mr. Soei continued, saying "this was a loser man from the ghetto who is very, very angry at Danish society."

I wanted to take a more personal approach to writing this article because so many Trinity students and friends at different colleges are now studying, or have studied abroad in Copenhagen. One of the main goals of studying abroad is to open

your eyes to new cultures and experiences. I believe that people who have recently lived in Copenhagen and are currently in Copenhagen would have an interesting perspective on the recent events that took place and how it might affect their overall study abroad experience.

Sara Sharp, a junior at UC Berkeley, is currently studying abroad in Copenhagen. Sharp had the opportunity to attend the memorial for the victims of the shooting at a park right across the street from her dorm. When asked how this event is affecting the community and her study abroad experience, Sharp responded, "while it is easy for people to assume that this is the worst luck to study abroad here during this, I actually see it in a whole different light. While the attacks were horrible and tragic, what happened after in our community was one of the most overwhelmingly moving things I have ever experienced. Over the past week I have never witnessed so much love,

solidarity, and community togetherness in my life. It has been beautiful and I feel grateful to be able to witness it."

The terrorist attack in Copenhagen was just that – a terrorist attack. A man was driven by the ills of society to instill fear in a community. Terrorism is not a question of if, but when, and there is no way to guard a country from such atrocities. According to Sharp, the reeling community is ready to bounce back. Copenhagen prides itself on being one of the world's safest capitals and people have resumed normal life.

Denmark, however, remains on maximum terror alert, with a huge police mobilization and heightened security on border crossings to Sweden and Germany.

One can only hope that these senseless acts of violence can be counteracted by strong support for police and military forces working toward the safety of the citizens. Until then, our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by this tragedy.



# The problem with housing lottery is the housing itself

RYAN MURPHY '17  
STAFF WRITER

One of the nice things about housing at Trinity College is the lottery system, which offers students a fair chance to improve their living situation from the previous year. That said, one of the things that's not so nice about the housing at Trinity College is the actual housing.

I'm not blind to many of the improvements that have been made around campus, particularly on Crescent Street and in the Summit Suites. There is no doubt that those are high quality living spaces and highly coveted by students.

There is, however, more maintenance and improvement required in dorms such as High Rise, Jarvis, North Campus, and Jones, and I strongly believe this should be a top priority moving forward. These dorms are extremely outdated and exhibit numerous problems: windows don't shut, heaters don't work, carpets are filthy, sinks are broken, and drainage is faulty.

Those are just some of the complaints I have heard from students around campus, and even issues that I

have dealt with myself in my two years here. Those issues can't simply be blamed on the fact that the school can't make everything perfect every year.

There's no reason why students should not have a comfortable supply of heat throughout the winter, especially when the reason for the lack thereof is that there's a pound of dust accumulated in the vent, which the maintenance guy has to pull out. There's no reason why residents should be waking up with snow inside of their rooms because the windows aren't sealed tightly enough.

Issues such as these are inexpensive to address and should not simply be overlooked by room inspectors before each school year. Not to mention, there's also broken blinds and furniture in many rooms when students report for class at the beginning of the school year.

I'm not suggesting that the school needs to invest an absurd amount of money to renovate all dorms and living quarters. However, when students walk into their dorms for the first time at the beginning of the year, they should not need to report problems to Resi-

dential Life.

I can deal with some marks on the wall, even some stains on the carpet, but I shouldn't walk into my room with broken blinds, a couch that is literally 'unsit-able,' mold in my sink, and a heater full of dust. Those are not the sorts of issues that students at one of the most expensive schools in the country should be dealing with.

In all fairness, the administration is not the entity creating all of these issues inside of the dorms. Inevitably, a lot of college kids will trash their rooms, break things, and not really care about doing so. But there's hardly an incentive for the next group of residents to take care of the room if they walk in and it looks as if the last residents moved out the day before.

That's where the administration needs to step in and develop a system to prevent this. Whether they require students to pay for any and all damages to their rooms or figure out another form of compensation, rooms should all be in a nice condition for the coming year.

Obviously not every room, even within the same dorm, is in the same con-

dition, and that's where I think the biggest problem lies with the lottery. While I believe the system in place is effective and fair, it does ignore some issues in regards to how it ranks rooms.

If the idea is to allow those who live in the worst dorms to get better lottery numbers for the following year, how can it be that roommates get numbers differing by hundreds? The people that live in rooms or dorms that have the most issues should be rewarded with the highest lottery numbers.

Of course, lotteries imply luck of the draw, but roommates and people with comparable rooming situations should have relatively similar numbers. In addition, the rankings ought not to be given based on dorms overall, but rather on individual rooms, because there are some F-rated rooms in B-rated dorms, and vice versa.

It is important to note that all that I've said thus far should be taken with a grain of salt. In fairness to President Berger-Sweeney, most of the aforementioned issues in the dorms have not come under her watch and she has already designated

a committee of sixty students to deliberate and try to determine the best possible housing lottery system.

No one can make the buildings any less old than they actually are, but I think the entire Trinity community can agree that there are improvements that can be made to many dorms around campus, and we can certainly agree that there are essentials in every room that should be fully functional at the start of every year.

While there are certainly some minor tweaks that can be made to the lottery system, the problem doesn't lie so much in the lottery as it does in the actual living quarters. If improvements are made to the rooms and every student can start the year with a satisfying room, the lottery will start to lose importance, and that's not a bad thing.

If a budget is allotted annually to maintaining housing and the effort is sustained over several years, living conditions will improve and ranking the dorms will no longer be determined by which ones are inherently 'bad,' but rather dorms will be ranked on the basis of how great they are.

# Obama's approval ratings fall in wake of ISIS attacks

SHEILA NJAU '17  
STAFF WRITER

A big topic in the news lately has been ISIS and how the United States has been dealing with this issue; more specifically whether President Obama would be able to authorize more attacks against the terrorist organization. ISIS, also known as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, is a group based in Iraq that seceded from Al Qaeda. It controls parts of Syria and Iraq, and also has a presence in Libya, Egypt, the Middle East, North Africa, and Southern Asia. When Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was killed in 2006, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi took over Al Qaeda and it is under his leadership that the formation of ISIS took place. While the Iraqi group of Al Qaeda was damaged in 2007 by a joint attack by U.S. and Iraqi forces, it rebounded in 2011 when it began its transition into Syria, which was undergoing conflicts of their own. Two years later, the organization was back in Iraq and al-Baghdadi changed the name to ISIS. At this time,

it seems ISIS is completely separate from Al Qaeda, which is now run by Osama bin Laden's replacement, Ayman al-Zawahiri. While the organization of Al Qaeda has caused extensive damage and pain, ISIS seems to be equally as threatening.

Sadly, a main strategy for this terrorist group is to capture citizens of various countries and use them to make demands about what they would like changed. In November 2012, ISIS abducted American journalist James Foley. By November 2013, ISIS was requesting \$132 million in ransom, which was not paid. During airstrikes on ISIS by the U.S. in August 2014, James Foley was killed on camera. Unfortunately, the story does not end there. A few days after James Foley was killed, another American journalist, Steven Sotloff, was killed after a member of ISIS stated that the journalist's life was in the president's hands. The airstrikes against ISIS continued. In September 2014 a British aid worker, David Haines, was killed.

According to ISIS, the murder was the result of Britain's "evil's alliance with America." The U.S. continued airstrikes against ISIS, specifically in Syria. In the beginning of October another British citizen, Alan Henning, was assassinated due to Britain's joining forces with the U.S. to attack ISIS. In November American aid worker, Peter Kassig, was beheaded by the terrorist organization on video. Even after that, the death toll continued to rise. In January of this year, there were videos posted about the assassination of two Japanese citizens, Haruna Yukawa and Kenji Goto. And so, on Feb. 11, 2015, President Obama asked Congress to authorize the use of the military to fight against ISIS. This is where disapproval ratings for Obama come into play.

In a poll of 1,027 Americans, CNN concluded that 57 percent stated that they did not approve of how the president was dealing with ISIS. This is a significant increase from September of last year, when 49 percent of Americans did not ap-

prove. In addition, 54 percent of Americans do not approve of how the president is dealing with terrorism and 57 percent disapprove of how the president deals with foreign affairs as a whole. Over 58 percent of Americans think that the fight against ISIS is not going well. Only 51 percent of those who voted say they have faith in the president as the Commander-in-Chief. But, 78 percent believe that President Obama was right to ask Congress for authorization to use the military against ISIS.

Being a president does not seem to be an easy task and I find myself wondering about the people who disapprove of President Obama's tactics. From what I have read and seen, it seems to me that he is doing the best he can with a difficult situation. If he is to stop the attacks on ISIS, the terrorist organization would get the opportunity to grow and recruit even more members. Is it coming at a cost? Yes. No life should have been taken and it appalls me that ISIS continues to

kidnap these people and make demands with such violent tactics. I find myself wondering what more the president could do, short of ordering Americans from infiltrating areas where there are ISIS strongholds.

With war, things don't always work as they should and I think that has to do more with the nature of war rather than what the president is doing. Regardless of who is in office, ISIS, and other powerful terrorist groups, would continue these acts of violence and hostility. All that one can hope for is that the person in office is well equipped to take the lead in the fight against this evil.

What I would like to ask is what people think President Obama should do more of, and at what price? I can only imagine the difficulties that come with being in office and knowing that the lives of so many people rest on your shoulders. I wonder how many of these people would be willing to sit in that chair and make those difficult decisions. I suspect that not many people would be willing to take on such an onerous job.



# NEWS

## Lecture presents Middle Eastern attitudes on sexuality

PRESTON CAREY '15  
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, Feb. 18, in Halden Hall, Trinity Professor Kifah Hanna offered a lecture on “Love and Desire in Lebanese War Literature.” Hanna gave insight on her work examining issues central to modern literature and culture in the Arab world. In an introduction, one faculty member explained that Hanna encourages students to think of Middle Eastern culture from a different perspective by exploring gender and sexuality and their intersection with nationalism. This enables students to “rethink what we think we know about being a woman or man in the Middle East.” The presentation as a whole displayed material from Hanna’s upcoming book detailing feminist and nationalist aesthetics in writings by contemporary Arab female authors.

Hanna’s credentials include a Bachelor’s degree from Al-Baath University in Syria, as well as Master’s and Doctorate degrees from the University of Edinburgh. Most recently Hanna received Trinity’s Arthur H. Hughes Award for Teaching Achievement in 2014. A professor in the department of Language and Cultural Studies, Hanna teaches the Arabic language while also exploring topics vital to the modern Middle East. Her current book focuses on novels by three prominent writers, Ghada al Samman, Sahar Khalifeh, and Hoda Barakat. The lecture comprised of her investigation of the novels by Barakat, an acclaimed Lebanese writer whose work Hanna viewed as pioneering in its unflinching representation of homosexuality in Arab zones of conflict.

A challenging issue for the modern Arab world has been, according to Hanna, assessing the different aspects of sexuality. Feminism, sexual desire, and homoeroticism seem incom-

patible with a culture whose excesses are seen as patriarchal and oppressive. Hanna’s work revolves around the theory of Miriam Cooke, who suggested that the Lebanese Civil War caused a breakdown of traditional society, allowing women to express concerns with their culture in new and compelling ways. Barakat’s work in particular, Hanna claims, advanced feminism “in disguise” by looking at the experiences of marginalized homosexual men.

Hanna began her analysis with a survey of the history of homosexuality in Arabic literature. For centuries, sexuality was “affluent” in Arabic literature, embodying an entire genre concerned with entertainment and the expression of desire. No shortage of esteemed bards contributed to a strain of bawdy poetry written for youthful boys. Perhaps the most famous was the Iranian Abu Nuwas, considered one of the greatest classical poets in Arabic and Persian literature. One of his works, read-aloud by Hanna, began, “I die of love for him, perfect in every way...” In addition to the work by Nuwas, Hanna pointed to “The Delight of Hearts” by Ahmad Al-Tifashi and “The Perfumed Garden” by Sheikh al-Nafzawi as significant examples of eroticism, the latter of which stood both as a sex manual and work of erotic literature.

Following these observations and examples, Hanna explained the advent of a cultural transformation occurring in the Middle East roughly a century-and-a-half ago, that reformed perspectives on sexuality. A decline in representing sexuality and a redefinition of morality occurred on a large scale throughout the Middle East, corresponding to European standards at the time. Arabic intellectuals adapted Victorian customs and sexual mores. As a result, little mention of sex-

uality exists in literature from the Ottoman Empire, the largest society in the Arab-speaking world until its collapse in the early 1920s. Sexuality thus disappeared from the “realm of textuality,” though less successfully than one might imagine, as well as from the interactions of men and women. Acknowledging this fact has informed the criticism of contemporary Arabic literature.

Thus any direct expression of heterosexuality or homosexuality in Arabic literature for much of the last century provoked controversy. Hanna attributed this crisis of representation to a puritanical Arabic culture “on the eve of modernization,” which lacked any defined concept of masculinity. Writing letters to youthful boys and even the tacit practice of homosexual sex did not include an awareness of homosexuality among many Arabs. Simply put, having sex with men in Arabic culture did not signify a man as homosexual. Asserting a concept of homosexuality in the Middle East thus appears at the least problematic and at the most impossible. Bi-sexuality existed as a regular practice in the Arab world but not a part of any academic dialogue. One argument for this lack of cultural recognition states that physical sexual acts were not the target of classical poetic expressions of homo-eroticism. A popular view in 20th century Arabic literature saw homosexuality variously as a deviance, a condition of hyper-masculinity, or as a result of child abuse, and thus outside the domain of love and affection.

Hanna claims that Barakat is the first prominent Arabic writer to acknowledge gay rights. In her novel, “The Stone of Laughter,” Barakat dedicates her protagonist to a gay man, distinguishing “The Stone” as the first book by an Arab author to have a main

character who is homosexual. In her work, Barakat offers satirical representations of homo-erotic desire. Her novels explore conflicts between openly gay men and society. While their worlds teem with political and social violence, Barakat’s male protagonists become immune and isolated. Barakat uses the lives of these men and their sexuality as a framework for a socio-political examination of Lebanon at war.

In “The Stone of Laughter” the protagonist, Khalil, experiences a transformation of character that reflects the tortured condition of men and women in the war-torn Arab world. The hegemonic masculine society of modern Lebanon portrayed in Barakat’s novel turns both gay men and women into “subordinate groups” on the margins of society. Amid the chaos Khalil feels a need for order, an obsession springing from the denial of pervasive war and death but also in tandem with an awareness of his own femininity. He spends inordinate amounts of time decorating his apartment, meanwhile imagining romantically his friend Naji, whom he secretly admires. With war in Beirut, Naji plans to leave the city, but to Khalil’s dismay becomes involved in the violence and dies from a sniper’s bullet.

In another of Barakat’s stories, a man named Nicola finds himself in the ruins of downtown Beirut. He discovers the remains of his father’s textile shop and hides in its basement before making it his home. He immerses his naked body in the fabrics, describing the experience in terms of fitting a sensual relation as if referring to a man or woman but described as neither. We learn that the character has a fixation on fabric, and that he loved a Kurdish woman because he wanted to touch the fabric of her shawl. Hanna elaborated on the significance of fabrics as

an artwork and expression of identity in Arab culture. Nicola thus takes refuge in a past and history that protects him against war. The character exhibits an anxiety with the issue of masculine identification. His feminine characteristics, Hanna additionally observed, do not necessitate his being gay.

Hanna lastly returned to the character of Khalil, and the reform he experiences. At first, Khalil sheds tears of affection, at one point reflecting, “Oh my God, I am dying of love.” Khalil’s pain stems from his unrequited love. In this portrayal, Barakat takes a non-judgmental approach to Khalil’s love and homoerotic love in general. Evoking classical literary styles, Barakat portrays a love that exists beyond gender confines. However, a magnetic shift occurs, wherein Khalil swerves from a mode of passive femininity to aggressive masculinity. Before long, he joins a militia and in the culmination of his fall rapes a woman. At this point in the novel, Barakat intervenes in the story as “a woman who writes,” lamenting the loss of her dear Khalil.

Professor Hanna mentioned some of the fascinating challenges involved in Barakat’s writing as well as the issue of gender in the Arab world. For one, she observed, the Arabic language is a gendered one, making it impossible to write without involving masculine and feminine associations in some way. She nonetheless praised Barakat’s ability to subvert the restrictions of her own language in lessening the influence of gender on her prose. Considering how a woman writer might put into writing the experiences of a man, Hanna referenced Barakat, who says, “when I write I step outside my gender, outside any gender. When we write we are both male and female yet at the same time beyond either.”

## President gains a connection with Hartford Hospital

continued from page 1

ly with membership to the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Alliance, which seeks to bring the most advanced methods of care to the Hartford community. Also meritorious for their clinical excellence are the departments of cardiology, oncology, emergency services and trauma, mental health, women’s health, orthopedics, bloodless surgery, and advanced organ transplantation.

This particular addition to the doctor’s, and President’s lengthy résumé seems to fit

quite snugly with her personality. Trinity’s leader finds her greatest calling in making a difference for the better, in whatever capacity that may be, as shown by her varied involvements and her accomplishments in them. In an AAAS Member Spotlight article from 2013, during her time at Tufts University, she stated, “I feel as though I’ve been able to have an impact. And what’s more satisfying than that?” (Tufts University, Photography & Web Communications).

This recent appointment to the hospital should come as

no surprise to those who are familiar with President Berger-Sweeney’s goals to connect with the greater Hartford community. She has continued to make efforts to extend Trinity’s presence in Hartford, including recent developments involving the purchase of a building in downtown Hartford. However, when the President first explored the possibility of accomplishing these goals, Hartford Business provides her realization that “[she’s] not sure [she] realized how involved all the members of Trinity are in the community beyond the walls

and the hedges.” The discovery that Trinity already had established connections with parts of Hartford made it even easier for the president to start to extend these connections even further.

What is most notable when considering her appointment to Hartford Hospital’s board of directors, however, is the verve with which she attacks her many responsibilities and the way in which it reflects her belief in interdisciplinary action and education. The aforementioned report also wrote that she “is keeping one foot

firmly planted in the laboratory” (American Association for the Advancement of Science). As a professor of Neuroscience, along with the duties of her presidency, it is clear that she seeks to maintain that course of action at Trinity. She is a real manifestation of the interdisciplinary values that Trinity promotes, having a stake in so many institutions that are at the summit of their respective fields. Keeping with the metaphor, she is a woman of many feet, and chooses to make her presence felt wherever they step.



# “Am I My Sistah’s Keepah?” discusses women’s empowerment

MEIJING HE '17

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last Wednesday, Feb. 18, an event named “Am I My Sistah’s Keeper” took place in Gallows Hill. Hosted by Trinity College’s Black Women Organization (TCBWO), Zeta Omega Eta Sorority, and Lambda Tau Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the event addressed how developing sisterhood molds women as individuals, as well as the effects of other aspects of female relationships, such as gossip and “frenemies.” These are classic issues represented in social media, and not uncommon on Trinity’s campus.

The event attracted a small group of people, which helped create a safe and warm environment for participants’ true voices to be heard. To start it off, the first question was posed: “what does the word ‘sisterhood’ mean to you?” It was met with answers regarding unity, support, trust, and friendship, etc, which

most everyone agreed on. Similarly, the group responded to the question “what is valuable about sisterhood to you?” with the consensus of: the bond keeps us unified and empowers us as individuals.

The next part started with an interesting question: “what is a ‘mean girl’, and what is a ‘frenemy’?” Some of the answers were the following: “a mean girl is someone who acts nice but badmouths people behind their backs,” “she comes off as friendly but actually only takes advantage of you,” “she is very judgmental because of people’s different backgrounds,” and “she can have some power and usually feels superior to other people, while being very hostile and competitive.” Not surprisingly, the characters from the movie “Mean Girls” were also used as examples. For instance, in the movie the girls keep a “burn book” where they write down all of the people they hate as

well as the things that these people have done. The example was mentioned to illustrate the point that in real life we sometimes keep a mental “burn book,” or even one online through services like GroupMe and Facebook Messenger. Creating these types of “burn books” is not healthy for one’s psyche and, consequently, can turn one into a terribly hateful person.

Afterwards two videos were shown, one being Gabrielle Union’s “Fierce and Fearless” Speech in 2013, and another which was her interview with Oprah on why she stopped being a “mean girl.” The videos touched upon the question of whether girls get meaner when chances and opportunities open up. To most participants, they were quite empowering and relatable in various ways. Most people loved the part where Gabrielle said “I realized I didn’t get anything positive when I was being mean and

trashed people. Did I get that guy? Did my house get any bigger? Did money get magically put in my pocket? No, I gained nothing by putting all this negativity out there. I was a mean girl because I was afraid that the other people would get the things that I wouldn’t. And when I tried to take another woman’s power away, it actually empowered her.” That part brought to attention the point that most girls become mean because of a sense of insecurity.

The climax of the event was the discussion on how to be your sister’s keeper, and the first few parts started the discussion off on a good note. First, we clarified that the “sister” should not be taken in a literal sense, but refers to women in general. Following that, we gave different opinions on how to better support other women, but the discussion took an interesting digression into how to deal with mean girls. One of the

participants supported the idea of being more understanding. Another said, “although I get the idea that we should forgive and embrace, in reality I’m more like a ‘tooth for tooth’ person, and if someone puts a finger at me or yells at me I would not take it nicely. I’d stand up for myself.” And at this time, another person contributed a rather opposite idea, “when people disrespect me or say offensive things I just tell myself that they are not at my level.” A participant went off of that, “Yeah I think it takes practice, and ultimately you’ll reach a state where nothing negative can get to you.” When the digressed discussion got heated, someone raised the point that we should educate girls the right value system first.

Finally, the event ended with people writing positive notes to another person that they had just met there, while empowering songs played in the background.

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# FEATURES

## Trinity students share their unique experiences in Israel



COURTESY OF David Linden '16 and Denicia Peterson '17

Both David and Denicia traveled to Israel over their winter breaks, along with other Trinity students, and captured the beauty of their journey in photographs.

## Young Israelis capture the heart of a Trinity student

GREGORY OCHIAGHA '18  
STAFF WRITER

I went to Israel with a program called "Start South" to create a large-scale arts festival for southern Israel. As a non-Jew, I must admit that I didn't know much about this country before the trip. All I knew was what the western media told me. I didn't expect to fall in love with Israel, but I did unequivocally.

My favorite moment would have to be when our group went to a large school center. We did many workshops with the kids there. I'm part of the Documentary/New Media group so I was going around taking pictures of

everything, including the kids. The kids were hilarious, they didn't say picture, they said "selfie" even when they meant picture. So, the boys would all get in groups asking me for "selfie!" and I obeyed, of course.

And then there was this one boy who kept following me around, speaking Hebrew to me. I took a picture of him but he kept following me around. I tried to ask him what he wanted, so he called a teacher over. She had a bit of an accent, so at first I thought she just said he "wants a picture." Just as I was about to take another picture of the boy, she shook her head and said, "with you! He wants picture with

you!" He just stole my whole heart, right then and there.

Regardless of whether you are Pro-Israel or Anti-Israel, please know all the facts. I've fallen absolutely in love with this country, and it's people and it's food. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a very complicated one, and it is a typical habit for Americans to pick a side. But sometimes, there isn't really a good guy or a bad guy. The situation in Gaza is terrible and I pity the people there. But the Israeli people, specifically the people of Sderot, are victims of this conflict as well. The children here are gorgeous, the people here are kind and they all want peace.



COURTESY OF Gregory Ochiagha '18  
Greg forms a bond with an Israeli boy at a local school.

## Israel boasts a beautiful culture and exquisite cuisine

CARLY GOROFF '17  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This winter I was lucky enough to have the chance to go to Israel on a birthright trip. For those who may not know, birthright is the opportunity for Jewish teenagers and young adults to travel to Israel on a 10-day trip – packed with activities, cultural events, and lots and lots of sightseeing. The itinerary included trips to Tel-Aviv, Jerusalem, the Negev Desert, and many other sights up and down the country. I was so amazed by the sheer beauty of Israel and the kindness and acceptance the Israelis showed towards us. Israel welcomed us with open arms as we spent ten beautiful days in the Holy Land.

One of my favorite parts of the trip was hiking up Masada. We climbed up the rock plateau to see an incredible ancient fortification that Herod the Great built as his palace. Later, the fortification was used during the First Jewish-Roman War by rebels fighting against the Romans. The war ended during Siege of Masada with the mass suicide of all of the rebels. The history and beauty of Masada is unparalleled; situated between the Dead Sea and the Jordanian border, the view from atop was breathtaking and made the long hike up and down totally worth it. The remnants of the palace and fortification are still in relatively good condition and make for a fascinating tour of the top, flat part of the plateau.

Another part of the trip I really enjoyed was experiencing all the different foods from Israeli and Jewish culture. As Israel's national food, hummus was served at just about every meal. I consumed more hummus in those ten days than I have in my entire life! In addition, Israel boasts a delicious cuisine that includes falafel and shawarma, essentially pita stuffed with hummus, deep-fried chickpea balls, schnitzel, or lamb and an array of different condiments and toppings. So yummy!

Also, I definitely miss the fresh fruit juices served at every street corner. From pomegranate to apple, these hand-pressed juices were delicious and refreshing.



COURTESY OF Carly Goroff '17  
Carly enjoys delicious hummus during a lunch in Israel.



# Trip to Israel provides moments of interfaith dialogue

ELIZABETH VALENZUELA '17  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Imagine a chartered bus filled with over 30 American students. They are chattering loudly and excitedly about their journey ahead. They come from every corner of the United States and varying ethnic and religious backgrounds as well. Although these students may seem very different from the outset, what they have in common is their leadership at their respective universities. From positions in Student Government to roles as Resident Assistants, these students are the movers and shakers on their campuses. These thirty plus also share a common destination: Jerusalem.

These students were

brought together by the David Project, a non-profit organization that positively shapes campus opinion on Israel by educating, training and empowering student leaders. One of the ways in which the David Project educates its student leaders is by inviting them to participate in "Israel Uncovered," a ten day trip that brings Jewish and non-Jewish students to Israel and exposes them to its dynamic and complex society. In January I had the opportunity to participate in this trip and learn about Israel's history, people, culture and religions. As a result of my involvement in the Charleston House of Interfaith Cooperation – an organization that promotes dialogue and relationship-building between people of different

religious backgrounds and worldviews – I was most impacted by the examples of interfaith cooperation that I witnessed while in Israel.

Our group's bus driver, medic and tour guide alone were a diverse trio through whom I learned about the different religions that co-exist in Israel. Our bus driver, Moshe, was a kind older man of few words. He was a devout Muslim. Our medic, Sully, was a Druze gentleman. The Druze religion is a blend of Islamic monotheism with Greek philosophy and Hindu influences. It is unique in that outsiders are barred from joining it. Our tour guide, Yoav, was a lively Jewish Israeli. These three gentlemen introduced me to Israel's religious diversity and demonstrated the

importance of interfaith cooperation in our daily lives.

As my trip continued, I began to personally experience moments and interactions such as the one described above. My awareness to these was especially heightened in Jerusalem – a city that is split into four quarters: the Muslim Quarter, the Christian Quarter, the Jewish Quarter and the Armenian Quarter. Whether these interactions came in the form of the conversations I had with fellow Catholics at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre or the celebration of Shabbat dinner with a young Jewish family or the lessons I learned while listening to the narrative of a Palestinian-Israeli man, these moments reaffirmed for me the difference that can be made

when we share our narratives, listen to the narratives of others and attempt to understand their worldviews.

In a world that is wrought by lack of understanding between people of different religious backgrounds, I felt inspired by the moments I witnessed and participated in because they gave me hope for a more peaceful tomorrow. One of the outcomes of my experience in Israel has been Avi Peace Shabbat, which took place on Feb. 22. A collaborative event between the House of Peace and Hillel, it created a space for open dialogue about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Over seventy students attended this event and engaged in this dialogue, helping to build bridges of interfaith cooperation on Trinity's campus.

# Trinity student experiences the day-to-day life in Israel

HANNAH HIAM '18  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This past winter break, I visited Israel again. I was not a tourist within a large group, as was the case during my prior three visits. Then I followed a formal protocol of educational and cultural immersion that was driven by a mission of a particular organization leading the trip. During these arranged excursions, be it hiking trips, outdoor adventures or the museum tours, constant topics in discourses involved politics, history, and religion. Although I felt highly informed and inspired by the history of my Jewish land, I still didn't feel fully connected to contemporary Israel or its people. This is not a criticism of Israel pro-

grams as these educational and leadership tours provided me with knowledge and skills I wouldn't have learned in a history book.

This January I felt ready to embark on a journey of my own, driven by my own mission and itinerary. My mom and I rented an apartment in the middle of Tel Aviv, the country's New York City. Of note is that we hit the worst weather with much of Israel covered in snow and the normally warm and dry Tel Aviv drenched in rain, hail, storm winds, and very cold. Undeterred, we walked for miles, bought our own food at the local shuk (the grocery market), and used transportation such as taxis and buses, and visited museums and cultural centers throughout the city. Both of modest flu-

ency in Hebrew, we managed to communicate to our best abilities. Israel, because it is a land of immigrants, made the language barrier feel like only a minor problem. We were living in Tel Aviv, making our own plans day by day, and sometimes we even passed for Israelis! Witnessing daily life of Israel as a disguised Israeli walking the streets among the people, the worries and conflicts discussed academically and politically took a back seat to the normality of daily living. Nonetheless, not being a native Israeli, paranoia about security would spark whenever I was near bus stations or large public areas. Random and sporadic terrorist attacks are a tragic part of Israel's reality. Just a few days after my visit, on Jan.

21, 2015, 12 people were brutally attacked on a Tel Aviv bus by a terrorist. Back at Trinity in the midst of the quiet beauty of our campus, it felt almost surreal to know that I walked in the same neighborhood as the terrorist and his victims and may have seen people who were wounded in that attack.

The terrorist attacks in the Paris Charlie Hebdo killings and the anti-Semitic murders at the kosher supermarket all occurred during the time of my visit. Undoubtedly, I felt the security concerns affected my composure at times. On the other hand, my paranoia would fade away in the face of the regularity of ordinary life in Tel Aviv. Interacting with average citizens, I was inspired by their com-

mitment to keeping life as normal as possible and by their loyalty to their country. They treat their attackers at their hospitals, even after the attack, they provide aid and assistance to their neighbors affected by wars, and they send their citizens all over the world on rescue missions. From the perspective of Israeli citizens and through my lens, it is clear that everyday life must go on. The Israelis live with dire security concerns and yet they insist on maintaining as normal of a life as possible. They refuse to bow to terrorism. My most recent visit enabled me to identify with an average Israeli citizen, which I believe is an important part of shaping my position and connection to the country.

# The David Project signifies harmony throughout Israel

PRAWESH DAHAL '18  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Being a part of the David Project has been a truly enriching experience. When I embarked on the ten day trip to Israel, I wasn't expecting to come across anything new. Israel is like a second home to me, after Nepal, since my parents live there. I myself lived in Israel for a year before joining Trinity and I thought I already knew a lot about this country. However, I was wrong and I am very grateful to the David Project for uncovering the real Israel for me.

When I was in Israel during my gap year, I did not find it difficult to connect with the country, and

its people. I believe that living in different countries since childhood has taught me to embrace open-mindedness and accept different perspectives. And it was in the summer of 2014, during my stay in Israel, during the Israel-Gaza War that I truly realized the gravity of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The first few thoughts that ran through my mind were not at all about knowing which side to choose. It was not about Jews or Arabs. It was about peace, which I soon realized was hard to get, for trying to understand the Israel-Palestine history left me confused and perplexed. As I spent this winter in Israel, I connected more with this issue.

In my opinion, one can

never know what the conflict has truly done to these two regions solely by following what the media portrays. Instead, I learned that it is more about personal narratives. It is through listening to different people, whether Israeli-Jews, Israeli-Arabs, Palestinians, Israeli-Palestinians, Orthodox Jews, Reformed Jews, and many more, and their experiences that one can finally see a vague picture forming. I call it vague, because after listening to different personal narratives during my entire David Project trip, I still couldn't figure out what was black and what was white. It's grey and yes, it is confusing. But what's clear is my stand on all of this – trying

to achieve peace through non-violence, and my experiences in Israel this winter has given me hopes for that.

I was very moved when I encountered an organization called, Combatants for Peace during this trip. It is a movement that started by Palestinians and Israelis, who have fought for Palestinian freedom and for the Israeli army (IDF) respectively. These members have seen violence, decided to put down their guns and come together for peace. We heard from a Palestinian and an Israeli speaker from the movement and saw strong bonds of friendship between them. Their bond showed us that reconciliation is possible, if both the sides allow themselves

to understand the other's narratives and aspirations. They said that there is more that unites them than divides, and they act non-violently to raise consciousness regarding the sufferings and hopes of the other side to stop the cycle of violence. I think that the bloodshed and terror is never going to rescue these regions. If there is peace somewhere out there, it is in the hands of organizations such as this, which understands that change can only come if two sides truly understand each other's stories.

The David Project exposed me to so many different narratives in an unbiased way and I feel that I have uncovered Israel in many more ways.



# Arts & Entertainment

## A look at Drake's "If You're Reading This It's Too Late"

GIOVANNI QUATTROCHI '16  
STAFF WRITER

After his third studio album release, Drake is at an awkward point in his career. After Kanye released his third album, he went through a major withdrawal from the public. Drawing on the pain of losing his mother and fiancé, he came up with the album "808's and Heartbreaks," the antithesis of what he had become until that point. The breakdown of the ego and artistic integrity exemplified by the choices in instrumentation appeared like a digression from his pop/soul/electronic masterpiece album entitled "Graduation." Really, "808's" was an exploration of the more criticized elements of popular music: autotune, minor keys, low registers and out of key singing. "If You're Reading This It's Too Late" similarly abandons many of the musical themes that have contributed to his success thus far.

Drake has cornered the market on being the "self-deprecating singer/rapper," becoming more widely known than J. Cole or Frank Ocean. However, on this album he hardly sings at all, and comes off as emotionally shut off. While the mixtape is certainly a regression from the style that has made Drake one of

the best things to come out of Canada since Justin Bieber, it does not seem to be a strategic one. When Kanye was thrust toward rock bottom, he dug as far as he could inside of himself and pulled his demons to the surface for everyone to relate to. Drake has seemed to voluntarily wander over to rock bottom, and is now reading diary entries from when he was there. In every creative writing course I've taken, the professor has stressed the importance of showing, not telling the reader what you mean. Drake seems to have missed this point, causing his subject matter to seem shallow.

On the first track, 'Legend,' he discusses his satisfaction with his reputation: "oh my God, if I die I'm a legend," introducing his braggadocious style, and production from the extremely talented producer, PARTYNEXTDOOR. The beat is reminiscent of J. Cole's "Power Trip." Drake has been quoted saying that he considers himself the first person to successfully rap and sing. While he may have sold more records, I would say his successors, J. Cole or Frank Ocean, are much more masterful with the technique.

The second track, 'Energy,' is Drake's third attempt at rapping aggressively over a heavy trap and ominous piano beat. Two former releases

'Started From the Bottom,' and '0-100,' used the same technique, which caused them to be wildly successful. The technique refers to the style used by legends of the genre Tupac, on a number of tracks and Kanye West, specifically on "Get 'em High," and more recently, "New Slaves." The repeated use of the style, informed by a lack of life experience to draw on, contributes to the opinion that to continue to build a career, Drake will necessarily become a parody of himself. His mentor, Lil Wayne, faced the same dilemma upon recovering from his addiction. In order to preserve his integrity and keep his audience listening, he hired a team of writers, produced one track a day for 100 days, and sought out every artist that was willing to collaborate with him. Upon being asked how he managed to be so prolific, he answered honestly that he was only the 'Lil Wayne' brand representative, and that credit was due to those he employed.

Drake claimed to be working on a studio album entitled "Views From 6," and instead dropped this 17-track mixtape. Increasing the rate at which he releases music may be good practice for the artist, but the lack of humility and the perceived thoughtlessness of the writing does not

help his case.

The hook on the third track, "10 Bands," is entertaining and exemplifies both his privilege and his work ethic: "I could pay my mommas rent when I was 17... I can't let the streets down/ I've been in the condo for a week now." Oh, what would the devastated ghettos of Toronto do without Drake? All kidding aside, he does make many legitimate attempts to incorporate successful hip-hop motifs into his work. On the fifth and sixth tracks he summons both the soft-spoken rap and upbeat latin influences utilized by Chance the Rapper. On the ninth track he again employs producer PARTYNEXTDOOR, but this time to sing, in a style reminiscent of artists Frank Ocean and The Weekend. On the end of the twelfth track, "6 Man," Drake directly quotes Erykah Badu's part from the song "You Got Me," by The Roots. As a student of hip-hop, I considered this the best reference, and best track on the album. I was however devastated by the omission of Questlove's snare breakdown that accompanied the original. The next track "Now & Forever," like some of the first tracks, attempts to reincorporate old successful techniques in this case reusing the melody of the hook on "No Lie"

Drake is like many of his peers. Having reached the

height of success on his 2013 release "Nothing Was the Same" he had planned to release this album for free, but was then pressured by his label, to release it for sale on iTunes. Some lyrics, such as "brand new Baretta, can't wait to let it go/ walk up in my label like where the check tho? yeah I said it" on the eighth track, "Star67" assert his frustrations with the label. The track opens with a sample of mentor Lil Wayne, who is currently suing his partners at the label for \$51 million in response to their decision to withhold the release of his anticipated album "Tha Carter V."

Wayne makes an appearance on the eleventh track 'Used To' on which he exhibits the wordplay he's become known for. By declaring "If You're Reading This It's Too Late," not a mixtape, but his fourth official album release, Drake's taken a gamble. While it may be a crucial step in the development of Drake's gloomy-gangster persona, it in no way is worth purchasing something else that costs \$9.99 that costs 9.99. It's on Spotify, and if there are no singles on this album, so if you don't seek it out, you might miss it. If his next release is even comparable to Kanye's fifth studio album, "My Dark Twisted Fantasy," I'll be damned.

## 2015 Academy Awards honor the year's best filmmakers

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for creating Steve Carell's beaklike nose and sallow skin. Best foreign film, best live-action short film, and best short subject documentary went to the polish-identity film "Ida," "The Phone Call," and "Crisis Hotline: Veterans Press 1," respectively. The high definition drumbeats and jazz sounds of "Whiplash" earned it the Oscar for best sound mixing, and "American Sniper" won the following category for sound editing. As usual, the first part of the show was populated with heartfelt speeches, many if not most of which were interrupted by the Academy Orchestra for being too long. The nominees for best original song were performed throughout the evening at spaced intervals, though none of these performances held a candle to the song that later won the category. Selma's "Glory," performed by John Legend and Common had many of the celebrities in the aisles weeping con-

spicuously. Patricia Arquette won best supporting actor for "Boyhood," beating out Emma Stone and Meryl Streep for the Oscar. Next came a win for "Interstellar," neck in neck in the category of visual effects with its rivals "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes," and "Guardians of the Galaxy".

The second half of the show featured more puns and gags from Neil Patrick Harris, and a relatively toned down performance from Lady GaGa of many of the songs from the legendary best picture winner "The Sound of Music", which is celebrating its fiftieth year. Next, "Feast" the best animated short film and "Big Hero 6" the best animated feature film edged out competitors (notably "The Boxtrolls" for best animated feature film), bringing us to the awards for production design and cinematography. "The Grand Budapest Hotel" won for its colorful and singular production design, and the innovative one-shot cinematography of "Birdman"

earned it the Oscar for that category.

Next, "Whiplash" earned the Oscar for film editing—a slight surprise taking into consideration the 12 year editing process required for "Boyhood", but a wise choice considering the powerful and kinetic editing work done on "Whiplash." Best Documentary feature went unsurprisingly to the Edward Snowden film "Citizen Four." The next categories were the best original and adapted screenplays, which went to "Birdman" and "The Imitation Game," respectively. For best picture category, there was a toss-up between "Birdman" and "Boyhood." "Boyhood" director Richard Linklater and "Birdman" director Alejandro G. Iñárritu were the two major contenders in this category, but in the end the Oscar went to Iñárritu.

Then arrived the final three and weightiest awards of the evening—best actor and actress, and the highest hon-

or awarded, best picture. In the best actress category, there was little doubt that Julianne Moore would win her Oscar over her counterparts, even acknowledging the career changing work from Reese Witherspoon in "Wild" and the chilling brilliance of Rosamund Pike in "Gone Girl." But Moore's performance as a woman with Alzheimers in the drama "Still Alice" garnered almost universal critical acclaim, and as predicted, Moore won the Oscar. The best actor category held a real surprise; instead of "Birdman's" Michael Keaton, who played a washed up actor trying to cope with his wasted potential, which was the very likely choice for the award, the Oscar went to a stunned, but grateful, Eddie Redmayne, who played Stephen Hawking in "The Theory of Everything." His performance was filled with dignity and compassion. Redmayne seemed taken aback at his own victory during his acceptance speech and stumbled over words in his excitement.

Finally, the award for best picture arrived. Between the eight nominated films, The graceful and powerful "Imitation Game," the righteous and inspiring "Selma," the subtle and heartwarming "Boyhood," the daring and electric "Whiplash," the magical and thoughtful "Theory of Everything," the hilarious and bombastic "Grand Budapest Hotel," the tense and heart-stopping "American Sniper," and the mind-bending and dreamlike "Birdman," only one could take home the Oscar. It was truthfully always going to be either "Boyhood," the critical darling and feel good movie of the year, or the appropriately self-important "Birdman," full of towering performances and heated dramatic brilliance. The final Oscar went to "Birdman", giving the evening's show a finale, and seeing it through to the end. It was a close race, but the films have been chosen, and now the film year begins anew.



# La Voz Latina hosts the 15th annual Salsarengue

HENRY CHAVEZ '18  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

La Voz Latina once again did an amazing job of hosting their 15th annual Salsarengue night this past Valentine's Day. LVL is an organization on campus that is dedicated to raising awareness of Latino culture, politics, and social issues through programming within the Trinity community, as well as the Connecticut community. Salsarengue, being their signature event, beautifully celebrated Latino culture through music, dance, performances, food, decor, and more. Tables were covered in red and silver to encompass the theme of romance, red and white balloons flooded the scene representing love in the air, and warm candle lighting set an elegant mood for the evening.

Despite the unexpected snowstorm that hit Hartford on Salsarengue night, there was still a large audience present. The cold weather

did not stop attendees from dressing to impress. Suits, ties, bowties, suspenders, blazers, dresses, and heels swept the dance floor. Not only were there a lot of Bantams on the scene, but many students from neighboring institutions attended as well. Members of Lambda Alpha Upsilon Fraternity Inc., a Latino Greek organization with chapters at Connecticut Central State University, University of New Haven, University of Connecticut and Yale, were among the attendees. They opened for the main performer by grabbing the crowd's attention with a mixed dance number including well known Latin styles such as strolling, bachata, merengue, reggaeton and salsa. The performance was a great example of strong unity through Greek Life within Latino communities across several Connecticut campuses. These young men exemplify true dedication to both their fraternity and their Latino culture as they met outside of their respec-

tive schools in order to create and execute such a beautiful performance. The partnership between Greek Life and Latino culture has yet to reach Trinity College. However, Salsarengue this year proved that this could be an achievable necessity to build wonderful networks within and outside of individual campuses across the nation.

"La Magica del Amor" (The Magic of Love) was the title of this year's Salsarengue and was also the name of the first album produced by Charlie Cruz, the main performer of the night. Cruz was born in Puerto Rico and began his musical career by singing in his father's chorus who also produced three records. At age 22, Cruz entered the salsa industry as an upcoming star. However, Cruz did not stop there; he went on to develop several albums that expressed his Afro-Caribbean ancestry throughout Latin America. Today, Cruz divides his professional time as a salsa artist between Puerto Rico and

Tampa. Thus having him visit the Northeast was an honor, and he received much gratitude from the LVL crew.

After all the countless hours that went into preparing and hosting Salsarengue, the turnout was deemed a success, as it furthered the LVL's mission to promote the Latino culture

in positive and impactful ways both on campus and in the Connecticut community. Moreover, the artist of the night thanked attendees for coming out to such a strongly culturally infused event planned by students. Salsarengue is a reminder of the multicultural roots that make up our society.



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La Voz Latina held their 15th annual salsarengue night.

## Music department showcases Malcom Moon's senior thesis

POOJA SAVANSUKHA '15  
MANAGING EDITOR

This past weekend was a musical one. Quite literally so, as the Music Department showcased two excellent senior thesis projects by Malcom Moon '15, and Marisa Tornello '15. Despite the freezing temperatures and the snow outside, members of the Trinity community braved the weather to attend the sold-out shows on Friday and Saturday — a decision that they definitely did not regret. While both projects took on different approaches and addressed entirely different themes, they truly represented some of the best talents at Trinity. It was also quite amazing how the intimate black-box theatre, Garmany Hall in the Austin Arts Center, was transformed to serve as a space that conjured the perfect atmosphere for two different performances on the same weekend.

Moon's project titled "Jumping Trains," featured a live performance of original music, in collaboration with other vocalists, instrumentalists, and a dance ensemble. Quite appropriately, Moon described his show as a "musical experience," rather than merely a cabaret or concert. His music project relied heavily upon choreography, multimedia, lighting transitions, and text, reflecting his firm belief that "music is not just about listening—it is a synesthetic experience." The

combined elements within the piece definitely echoed this idea and made for an extremely engaging and enjoyable performance. While the vocals throughout the show were strikingly pleasant to the ears, the visual elements screened on the two televisions, as well as on-stage, complemented the song lyrics and melodies to entice audience members to embark upon this journey.

The music in the show, as the title metaphorically evokes, centered on an individual's journey through life, acknowledging the trials, tribulations and difficult choices along the way. Moon expressed in an interview that most of the songs throughout are extremely personal to him in the way they reflect his lived experiences or observations. He was first introduced to the metaphor, 'jumping trains,' as it was the title for one of pop-singer, Jo-Jo's unreleased albums that dealt with the subject of transitions and making difficult decisions. Given the assorted subjects of most of his songs, and their connection to his own current phase in life, this metaphor was a fitting theme. Moon's track list was ordered to reflect a coming-of-age of sorts, where after numerous encounters and experiences, the individual is able to finally make a choice between two distinct paths. College life in particular marks a transitional period for most individuals in terms of personal life,

career, and exploration. The project addressed the relatable conflicts surrounding the lives of young adults, which deal with concepts such as spontaneity, heartbreak, faith, perseverance and honesty. The theme of movement throughout the show was evident in the way each experience conveyed through a particular track, seamlessly transitioned into the next.

The show opened to the track, "Wait and See," that echoed a more youthful phase in the life of an individual who is about to set off on a journey. The song was sung by Moon and backed by an a capella arrangement featuring The Accidentals. Not only was it an interesting choice to begin the show purely with vocals, but the singular presence of Moon on stage as he sang against the harmonious backdrop of his a capella brothers seemed to instantly symbolize a solo journey even through the suggested presence of others.

This was seconded by "Right Now," which depicted an interesting dialogue between Malcom singing, and his collaborator and close friend, Connor Kennedy '16, rapping on stage. While the transition from an a capella piece to one involving electronic beats and rap was already an exciting one, the next song "On the Run" definitely evoked even more awe. The song introduced gifted pianist, Davis Kim '15, and supporting vocalists, Mattea Bennett '16 and Preston

Carey '15, on to the stage. As they sang about one of the darker themes in the show—addiction, the incredibly fluid dance movements by Glory Kim '17 and Christa Prophete '17, stole the audience's gaze. While the song itself was beautifully sung, Prophete and Kim's choreographed movements very convincingly portrayed this theme, allowing the audience a visual experience of the manipulative effects of addiction.

"Suspended," a duet sung by Moon and Nicole Muto-Graves '15, was not only lyrically moving, but was able to mesmerize the audience through the complete and beautiful intertwining of their voices. This piece was followed by "You Broke My Heart," where Moon confronted the audience very closely, allowing members to take note of his arresting expressions. The piece also delightfully highlighted Bennett and Carey's own vocal talents in the way their riffs beautifully catapulted across the room. Kim's live piano accompaniment even through all of this could not have gone unnoticed.

The next three pieces, "Running Out of Time," "Withdraw," and "OJ" featured Moon's collaborations with two extremely talented musicians—Malibongwe Thala '17, and Ebban Mada '16. Moon acknowledged how humbled he felt to work with such artists who not only have excellent vocals,

but are also some of the best instrumentalists that he has encountered. These interesting collaborations that also featured choreographed dances by Prophete and Hunter Lindquist '16 provided yet a few more jaw dropping moments for the audience. The impeccable timings, and evident skills that every performer possessed translated into exceptionally entrancing pieces. The following piece, "Takeoff" also highlighted featuring artist, Kim's vocal skills. The final track "Jumping Trains" brought Kennedy back on stage for a song that was definitely the catchiest.

Ultimately, the project was not only successful in revealing Moon's musical talent, but it also reflected his diverse interests through the tactful use of visual media, voice overs, and choreography. Moon expressed his gratefulness and pleasure in being able to work with some of the people on campus that he finds most inspiring and acknowledged the significance of his collaborators in constantly challenging him to improve himself and effectively the project itself. Down to the last detail, even every photograph (captured by Abbey Schlangen '16) projected throughout the show, and used for promotion, echoed the meticulousness and talent that every individual involved in the project possessed. At the end, the audience was definitely left wanting more.



# SPORTS

## Bantam Athlete of the Week : Sydney Belinskas '18

ANTHONY ZUCARO '16  
STAFF WRITER

The Trinity College Women's Ice Hockey Team has just finished their regular season with a bang and is preparing for playoff contention. This formidable team has been helped in part by rookie goalkeeper Sydney Belinskas '18, who has had a tremendous start during her first year at Trinity. Belinskas has helped the team finish their regular season at 15-6-2, with a majority of their wins being conference matches. Along with the rest of her top notch defense, Belinskas has posted five shutout games and has been in the net for 87 percent of games in which opposing team scored less than 3 goals.

Like many previous athletes of the week, Belinskas has found her inspiration in many athletes, but her status as a Floridian made her transition to ice hockey different. "Growing up my favorite athlete was Andrew Raycroft. I can remember watching the Bruins on TV and I always wanted to play like him...being from Florida I also found (pro-surf-



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Despite being ill at the start of the season Sydney Belinskas '18 has had a tremendous impact.

er) Kelly Slater as a huge inspiration. In the seventh grade I read his autobiography. Reading how hard he worked for everything made the phrase hard work pays off" true to me. This spark was strengthened by Belinskas' family. "Somehow [my sister] was almost always stronger and faster than me, but that always pushed me harder and harder. Both of my parents taught me how to lift and fight for what I want-

ed. I learned to work hard and to follow my dreams." This work ethic began long before her time in a Trinity uniform. "Before high school I played on Team Pittsburgh and we ended up winning Nationals. I went to the Williston-Northampton School my sophomore year to senior year. That's when opportunities really started coming. The off-ice and on ice teaching and coaching there really prepared me for college. With-

out Williston I would not be where I am today." This hard work and dedication paid off in dividends for Belinskas. In her most recent game against Wesleyan she limited the opposing offense to two goals and made 18 saves throughout the game.

Belinskas has had many opportunities to make memories, one of which was, "beating Tabor in overtime at their home rink during a night game. They had the stands packed. When we

scored it felt like we won a championship". However, the team at Trinity and its amazing fans seemed to have an even greater impact on Belinskas. "At Trinity the best moment was finally putting on my new pads for our first home game. I had just gotten back to school after being very sick and couldn't play yet, but just the vibe and hype was amazing. As soon as I walked into the rink that day I was so excited." The current playoff has made this experience even better for Belinskas, who has a positive outlook on the rest of the season. "This season has been great. We've really started working as a team. Moving forward this season I have a good feeling. Everyone's energy is high and as long as we keep working hard in practice the outcome will show in our games. The playoffs are in site and everyone is ready to battle."

Belinskas and the third-ranked Trinity College Women's Ice Hockey team will host Willaims at the Koepell Center on Saturday, Feb. 28th.

## Basketball advances to play Wesleyan in the semifinals

RYAN MURPHY '17  
STAFF WRITER

The Trinity Men's Basketball team continued its great season on Saturday with a first round victory in the NESCAC tournament. The win was much too close for comfort though, as the eighth seeded Colby College Mules, nearly knock off the number one Bantams.

Down 63-64 with 10.7 seconds left in the game, Colby guard Luke Westman drove all the way to the rim and had a relatively clean look at a lay up that would have given them the lead. Instead, he banked it too hard and Andrew Hurd '16 soared to grab one of the most crucial rebounds of the season.

Hurd was immediately fouled and with 3.1 seconds left on the clock and swished two critical free throws to give the Bants a 3-point lead. Colby's desperation heave to try and get the ball down the court for a shot was intercepted by Shay Ajayi '16, securing the first round victory for the Ban-



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Ed Ogundeko '17 helped to keep the Bantams above water in the second half of the match. tams.

Ajayi, who notched a double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds, said "man it was way too close, but since we were hosting that was an advantage to us because we had people cheering us on."

Leading scorer Jaquann Starks '16 struggled shooting the ball early and turned the ball over three times, but he did manage 12 points and three assists. Eight of those

12 came in a two-minute span toward the end of the first half on 3-for-3 shooting, bringing the Bantams to within one point at halftime.

After the break, the Bantams came out firing, going on a 14-1 run early in the second half to seize the lead, which they would maintain for the remainder of the game. Bench players Ed Ogundeko '17, Chris Turnbull '17, and Rick Naylor '16 led the charge, with Ogun-

deko tallying 11 points and five boards in the second half.

Co-captain Hart Gliedman '15 sank his only field goal of the game, a three-pointer late in the second half, giving the Bantams enough cushion to fend off the Mules' late surge.

Gliedman, playing his final season at Trinity said of getting one step closer to a NESCAC title, "it would mean so much to the older guys (Alex Conaway '15,

Steve Spirou '15, George Papadeas '15) on the team because of how far the program has come in these past years, but we're not getting ahead of ourselves, we still have a huge weekend ahead of us to get through."

The victory over Colby not only sends Trinity to the NESCAC semis for the second consecutive year, but it will also bring the NESCAC tournament semifinals and finals to the Ray Oosting Gymnasium for the first time since 2002. Home court advantage will certainly favor the Bants, as they have only lost two games on the home floor all season.

The Bantams will play the sixth seeded, in-state rival the Wesleyan Cardinals on Feb. 28th in hopes of meeting either Bowdoin or Amherst in the NESCAC Championship. If the Bantams were to win the championship, it would be their first since 2008, and would secure them a spot in the National D-III Men's Basketball Tournament.





# Trinity College

Inside Sports:  
Athlete of the Week  
& Squash

## Trinity Men's Squash team are No. 1 in the country

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-derson Good, who would win the No. 5 match 3-0 to give the Bantams a 4-0 lead. In a down to the wire result, Bantam Miled Zaraua '15 played against Edgar Zayas who would win 3-2 and gave St. Lawrence their first point of the afternoon.

The crowd was the loudest during the last game of the match between Trinity's Affeeq Ismail '17 and Lockie Munro. They both traded games, but Ismail was able to outlast his opponent and win the last game 11-9. This clinched the National Championships for the Bantams and allowed everyone to breathe as well as smile for the first time that day. The crowd was cheering and hugging each other, wanting to soak up the excitement of the days championships. Although the Potter's Cup was already decided, the excitement did not stop while last wave of



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Rick Penders '18 began the string of Trinity wins over St. Lawrence in the CSA Finals.

matches was played out. Juan Vargas '16 grabbed the sixth win of the day for the Bantams, while top-slot player Vrishab Kotian '15 lost to St. Lawrence player Amr Khalifa.

The final match of the day ended in a set that truly represented the level of competition between the two teams. Moustafa Hamada '15 took on his St. Lawrence opponent Duncan Maxwell in a fierce w

game that stretched to a 15-13 win for the Bantams. It was a satisfying finish for the Trinity team, reminding players and fans alike that every single point must be fought for on the quest to win a National title.

During the acceptance of the runner-up trophy St. Lawrence coach, Chris Abplanalp only had words of praise for Trinity saying, "what the Trinity program has done for squash is why

the college game is at the level it is today."

In an interview after the big win with Trinity coach Paul Assaiaante he explained that, "it was so wonderful to have the win happen here, a campus wide celebration of fans, students, alums and faculty" further saying that "I now know what other schools have experienced that we haven't." Coach Assaiaante continued by explaining that in preparing

for the championship, he told his players "act like you have been there before" this advice would help them when playing a St. Lawrence team that had never reached the National Championship finals before. In fact, the year Trinity won its first Potter's Cup was the first year of the St. Lawrence programs existence. Assaiaante added that he always tells his players that "how you deal with emotions during the match will prepare you for things far more traumatic in the future."

It was difficult to leave his office without taking a peek at his many championship rings located in the front of his desk. Coach Assaiaante noticed this and with the same smile that he held the moment they won another National Championship told me "we are getting another one of those." Congratulations to the Trinity Men's Squash team for another great season.

## Women's Squash falls just short in Howe Cup Finals

WILLIAM SNAPE IV '18  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

February was a busy month for the Lady Bantams, playing seven games in just 11 days against tough competition as a part of both the NESCAC Tournament as well as the CSA National Tournament. The women's squash team travelled to Cambridge last weekend to try and repeat as National Champions, taking on Harvard for the second time this season.

In the NESCAC tournament, Trinity dominated and had no trouble sweeping through the competition. The team won decisively in the opening round against Colby, winning 8-1. The rest of the tournament was a similar story. In the next round against Bates College, the girls showcased an impressive victory with a 9-0 sweep, with every single individual match being won in three games. Chanel Erasmus '15 put on a particularly notable performance, losing only a single point in her match, defeating Bates' Sarah Miller 11-1, 11-0 and 11-0. The championship match wasn't any more competitive, as Trinity defeated the hosting school, Williams, 9-0 just as they had done the last time the two teams met in January.

It is undeniable that the Trinity Women's Squash program has reached the status

of a dynasty amongst NESCAC opponents. The Bantams have captured the league title every year of the tournament's nine year history, and have never lost a match to a NESCAC opponent. The team will look to maintain its championship status next season, and it seems highly probable that the girls will be able to make it

a decade of domination.

After wrapping up the season in terms of league play, the girls got four days to rest and recuperate before a relatively quick turnaround for the CSA Nationals Tournament to compete for the Howe Cup. After taking the first match against Cornell 9-0, it appeared that Trinity might be able to take

the National Tournament as handily as they did the NESCAC. However, the next two teams would prove to be incredibly challenging matches. In the semifinals match against the University of Pennsylvania proved to be a tighter contest that would end up being decided by a single game. With the score tied at

four games, the match would come down to one individual game at the No. 7 spot. Down two games to one, co-captain Natalie Babjukova '15 rallied to win the fourth and fifth games 11-7 and 11-6 respectively to help lift Trinity past UPenn and take them onwards to the championship game.

There is a lot of history between the Harvard and Trinity Women's Squash teams, and in recent years the two have met on numerous occasions in what is often a very close matchup. This meeting was no different. Despite the 7-2 scoreline, the match was much closer than it appears on the headline. Six out of the nine individual matches needing to be decided in 4 games or more, such as Trinity's Sachika Balvanis '16 who defeated Harvard's Isabelle Dowling in a five game thriller. All of the girls played great across the board and fought each match down to the very last game, but in the end it was Harvard who won on their home court. The Bantams only graduate four seniors at the end of this year, and currently have tons of young talent who will only continue to get better. The Trinity team has all the tools to refocus and train so that when they make the trip back to the championship game next year and bring the Howe Cup back to Hartford in 2016.



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Raheem Shaarf '18 was one of two Trinity women to emerge as an individual winner in the finals.